



# MARSHAL MATTERS

## NOVEMBER 2020 EDITION

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**Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez**

The holiday season is here and that means many will be decorating their homes. The decorations add a much-needed bright spot for many as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities, not only here in Illinois, about across the world. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports that US fire departments responded to an average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations between 2013-2017.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December and January ranked second. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. On Average, 22 home candle fires were reported each day between 2013-2017. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow closely behind.

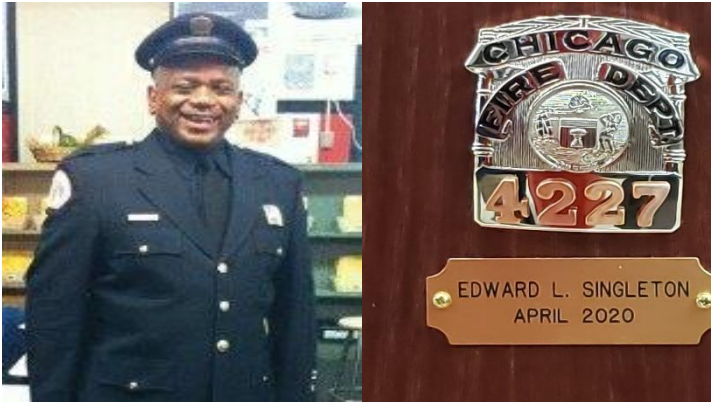
The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign at our offices in Springfield and Chicago. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). Unfortunately, last year 15 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois. Following and exercising fire safety measure can reduce your risk of fire or injuries related to fires not only during the holiday season but every day.

Keep the wreath red campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. Wreaths will be placed and lite with red bulbs outside of the OSFM offices in Springfield and at the Thompson Center in Chicago. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire related death is reported in the state. These white lights are not just bulbs; they represent a person! That person could be your Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle, Friend or neighbor. The goal of the campaign is to strive for zero fire related deaths during the holiday season. Follow the OSFM on Facebook and Twitter for holiday safety tips or visit our website at [www.sfm.illinois.gov](http://www.sfm.illinois.gov)

I want to personally wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.



## Chicago Firefighter Edward Singleton Badge Ceremony



The Chicago Fire Department honored fallen firefighter Edward Singleton in a ceremony adding his badge to the wall at the Quinn Fire Academy. He was the second member of the CFD to succumb to the coronavirus in April.

Following the ceremony at the fire academy, Edward Singleton's family installed an inscribed stone at the Chicago Firefighter and Paramedic Memorial Park to honor Edward's service.

Fire Marshal Perez was in attendance and presented the family with a proclamation from Governor JB Pritzker and a flag.

Photos Courtesy: Chicago Fire Department



**Walter Schroeder Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award Recipient**

State Fire Marshal Matt Perez presented Deputy District Chief Walter Schroeder of the Chicago Fire Department with his Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award. Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford II was on hand as well.

Walter Schroeder is a 31-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department and Deputy District Chief. He was certified as a Youth Firesetter Interventionist in 2006, and since, has been actively supporting this program. Chief Schroeder has been one of the most active and dedicated Youth Firesetter Interventionist for the Office of the State Fire Marshal since our agency took over the program, in 2014. He has never denied one of our requests to reach out and do an intervention to a youth firesetter in the Chicago area.

Chief Schroeder helps the OSFM by promoting the Youth Firesetter Intervention Program classes in the Chicago area, in a joint effort with the Office of the State Fire Marshal. In 2019, Chief Schroeder provided OSFM with or had conducted more than 50% of all YFS interventions. He has hosted and taught several classes at the Chicago Fire Department. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of YFS interventionists that were certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. He has been working with the Chicago Fire Department-Office of Fire Investigations (OFI), Cook County Juvenile Court/Probation Department, Chicago Police Department-Arson Section, Chicago Public School System, Private Schools, School Principals/Guidance Counselors, DCFS, Parents/Guardians, and youths.

Chief Schroeder, since taking over the program in Chicago, has developed relationships with numerous hospitals, schools and courts. He and his team build relationships with these kids and try to stay connected with them as much as possible through the program and even after they complete it. The recidivism is very low for many of the student he was telling us because they are very good about staying in contact with these kids and trying to help prevent them from going back to their old ways.

Congratulations Chief!



## OSFM Employee Spotlight



# Emily Kaylor

## Administration Assistant

**Where are you originally from?** Was born in Fort Riley Kansas and parents moved to IL in 1999. I have lived in Athens ever since

**Tell us about your family?** I have two fur babies. One Goldendoodle named Bella and a Yorkie named Josie

**Favorite food(s)?** Anything Italian

**Hobbies?** Being out on the lake with friends

**What's your favorite movie or book?** Ace Ventura Pet Detective or any comedy movie in general

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** Country; Luke Combs, Riley Green, Morgan Wallen

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** Dentist

**What's your favorite part of the job?** My coworkers

**What's something unique about you?** I have a freckle on my right eye

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** Orange beach Alabama/ Hawaii (Honolulu)

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Italy

## The OSFM Small Equipment Grant Program



*The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) application period is open for the Small Equipment Grant Program. All interested departments should send an application to OSFM no later than January 29, 2021. OSFM will award \$3.3 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services during this application period.*

*The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. A total of \$3.5 million was awarded to 154 fire departments/districts and EMS providers in June. This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. In addition to firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), applicants can also apply for personal infection control items such as masks, gowns and gloves this application cycle. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply.*

*Fire department, fire protection districts and township fire department applicants are required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying. Due to NFIRS undergoing updates at this time, the OSFM will require departments to be current through June 2020 for this grant period.*

***Please fill out the Small Equipment Grant Program application electronically. There are drop down menus available in the electronic application that can help you to complete the application.***

*The OSFM Produced a video to help departments/districts answer questions when filling out the application:*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G08qz3zO1iA&feature=youtu.be>

*Additional information including the application can be found here:*

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2IKJADTq30x027VLZUazoBZVtynRWD91meoygszVGPng61et5NSFhbIXc>

**The OSFM Honors Our Veterans-Thank You for your Service!**



**Ken Arnold**  
**James Bentley**  
**Michael Douglas**  
**Larry Eaton**  
**Scott Johnson**  
**Ron Fowler**  
**Mitch Kushner**  
**Kevin Smith**  
**John Thomas**  
**Greg Vespa**  
**Larry Warren**

**Les Albert**  
**Dan Bauer**  
**Bob Capuani**  
**Jim Coffey**  
**Patrick Polick**  
**Daniel Starks**  
**Greg Yurevich**

**Mike Poel**

**Bernie Arends**  
**Tony Nichols**  
**Zaelon Rohwedder**

**Alix Armstead**  
**Terry R. Brown**  
**Milly Morales**





## Holiday Decoration Safety



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](https://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2019



## Holiday Decoration Safety

# Christmas Tree Safety



**As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.**



### PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



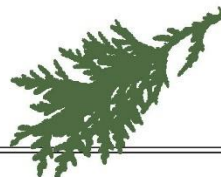
### PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



### LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.

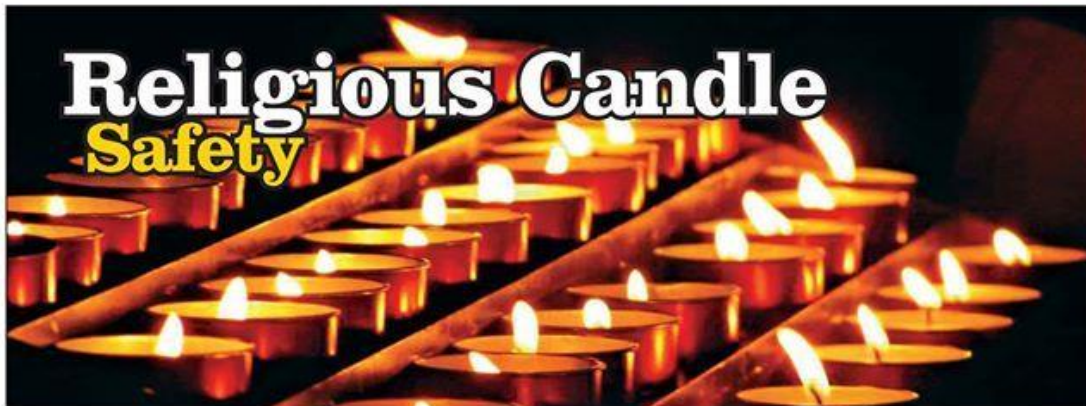


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## Holiday Decoration Safety




# Religious Candle Safety

Lit candles are used in religious services, in places of worship, and in the home. Whether you are using one candle, or more than one on a candelabra, kinara, or menorah, make sure you take a few moments to learn about using candles safely.

### Candle Safety

- » Candles should be placed in a sturdy candle holder.
- » Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.
- » When lighting candles at a candle lighting service, have the person with the unlit candle dip their candle into the flame of the lit candle.
- » Lit candles should not be placed in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire.
- » Candles placed on, or near tables, altars, or shrines, must be watched by an adult.
- » Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- » If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink, on a metal tray, or in a deep basin filled with water.



### Children & Candles

**Candles should be out of the reach of children and pets.** Young children should never hold a lit candle. Consider providing **battery-operated candles** for children. A **parent** should decide when a child is mature enough to light a candle with adult supervision.


### General Fire Safety

- Matches and lighters should be stored out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Places of worship should be equipped with a fire detection and sprinkler system.
- A home should have smoke alarms on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound. Test all smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Plan and practice a home fire escape drill that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.

### FACTS

- ❗ **December** is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ❗ **More than half** of home candle fires happen when a candle is placed too close to something that can burn.

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



## Keep the Wreath Red Campaign



*The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign at our office in Springfield. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2<sup>nd</sup>). Unfortunately, last year 15 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois. Following and exercising fire safety measure can reduce the risk of fire or injuries related to fires not only during the holiday season but every day.*

*Keep the wreath red campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. Wreaths will be placed and lite with red bulbs outside of the OSFM office in Springfield. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire related death is reported in the state. These white lights are not just bulbs; they represent a person! That person could be your Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle, Friend or neighbor. The goal of the campaign is to strive for zero fire related deaths during the holiday season.*

*Visit the OSFM's social media pages to follow the campaign.  
Facebook: @IllinoisStateFireMarshal  
Twitter: @ILFireMarshal*

## Heating Safety

# Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

### BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



### Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



### FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



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The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2017



## Chicago Cooking Safety Media Event



*The Fire Marshal Perez joined Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford II and members from the Chicago Fire Department Fire Prevention Division to raise awareness about the importance of cooking safety during Thanksgiving. Home Depot and Jewel donated items for the event. A demonstration was conducted during the media event showing how quickly a fire can grow out of control if you improperly use a turkey fryer. These same safety steps can be used during the holiday season as some will fry turkeys for their holiday celebration meals.*

*The video of the demonstration can be found here: [https://youtu.be/V-8D9\\_WN5J0](https://youtu.be/V-8D9_WN5J0)*



## Prevent a Turkey Fryer Fire



### Did you know?

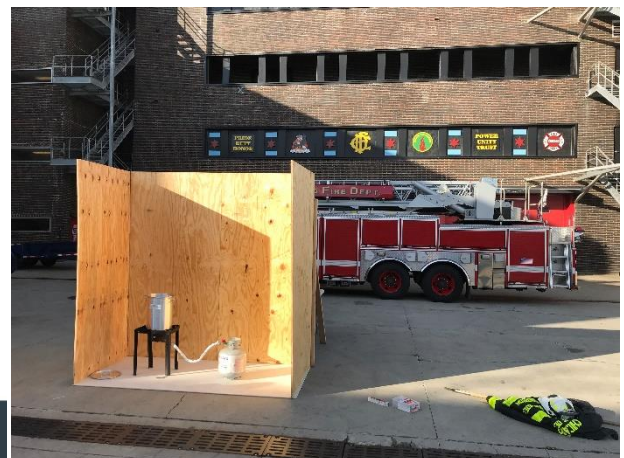
Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

When you fry foods, you increase the risk of a cooking fire.

Keep in mind the potential dangers of deep frying a turkey:

- Turkey fryers can easily tip over spilling hot oil across a large area. Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface well away from things that can burn. Make sure to have a "3-foot kid- and pet-free zone" around your turkey fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- An overfilled cooking pot will cause oil to spill over when the turkey is placed inside. Determine the correct amount of oil needed by first placing the turkey in the pot with water.
- A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter. Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it.
- Turkey fryers can easily overheat and start a fire. Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so the oil won't overheat.
- The pot, lid and handles of a turkey fryer can get dangerously hot and cause burn injuries. Use long cooking gloves that protect hands and arms when you handle these items.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).



**IFSI Minute****IFSI MINUTES**

A few updates from the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI):

**2021 CALENDAR RELEASE**

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is pleased to release our 2021 Calendar. This yearly publication is a showcase of IFSI programs, units and resources, instructors, staff, partners, and special events. The calendar also serves as a highlight of future training opportunities. It is not a complete list of 2021 courses. We encourage individuals to frequently visit the IFSI website as our training schedule is consistently updating as we add programs and services that meet the needs of first responders.

Printed calendars will deliver to all Illinois fire departments in early December. Contact the IFSI Marketing Team at [fsi-marketing@illinois.edu](mailto:fsi-marketing@illinois.edu) if you would like to request a free calendar.

Printable calendar: [go.illinois.edu/2021Calendar](http://go.illinois.edu/2021Calendar)

**BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER/NFPA FIREFIGHTER I BLENDED (BOF)  
NEXT DELIVERY STARTS JANUARY 9**

The next delivery of the IFSI Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended (BOF) program will begin January 9, 2021. This unique, 18-week training program balances instructor supported online learning with weekend, hands-on practicals. The next offering will be hosted at four regional training locations: Sherman, Streator, Cherry Valley, and Swansea.

The Basic Operations Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Blended exceeds the requirements outlined by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for Basic Operations Firefighter training. Upon successful completion, the student will meet Illinois OSFM, Pro Board, and IFSAC NFPA Firefighter I requirements for certification.

BOF is a **no cost** program for Illinois students and departments. Training is funded by the OSFM through an appropriation of agency funds for the purpose of supporting basic firefighter certification.

See the promotional flyer for more details.

**WINTER FIRE SCHOOL**

IFSI will host the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Fire School January 24-25, 2021 in Champaign. With great consideration for the health and safety of our students, instructors and staff, IFSI has made small changes to the format of this annual event by reducing the number of course offerings and limiting class sizes. We will offer seven unique courses in 2021, including a virtual training class. As with all IFSI training deliveries, extensive COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols will be in place throughout the event.

Registration for Winter Fire School opened December 1. Due to limited class sizes, we strongly encourage individuals to register early and online. Visit the IFSI webpage for complete event details.

**MOVING FORWARD**

Despite a challenging year for all, IFSI remains grateful for the support from our students, instructors, staff, and partners. We open the door to a new year with our continued eagerness and commitment to *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research*.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy holiday season.



## IFSI Minute

**ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# BASIC BOF OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER

### Basic Operations Firefighter NFPA Firefighter I Blended

The Basic Operations Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Blended is designed to give firefighters the practical and cognitive training needed to operate safely and effectively on the fireground utilizing a flexible blended schedule leveraging online learning and weekend hands-on practicals.

## BEGINS JANUARY 9, 2021

#### 4 Practical Sites:

Cherry Valley  
Sherman  
Streator  
Swansea

**NO COST  
TRAINING**  
to Students or  
Departments

**18 WEEK  
PROGRAM**  
featuring  
9 Weekend  
Practical Sessions  
and Online Learning

### UNIQUE, FLEXIBLE TRAINING LEADING TO CERTIFICATION

The Basic Operations Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Blended exceeds the requirements outlined by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal for Basic Operations Firefighter training.

**Upon successful completion, the student will meet Illinois OSFM, ProBoard, and IFSAC NFPA Firefighter I requirements for certification.**

This program is delivered balancing a blended learning concept utilizing a variety of online teaching elements interspersed with weekend hands-on practical training sessions.

**This format develops and validates that the student is successfully mastering the knowledge and skills needed as a firefighter.**



ONLINE,  
INSTRUCTOR SUPPORTED  
COURSEWORK



HANDS-ON, LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTION  
AT REGIONAL TRAINING SITES  
ACROSS THE STATE



**BLENDED  
TRAINING**

**FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**

## IFSI Minute



ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# WINTER FIRE SCHOOL

**JANUARY 23 – 24, 2021**

**SPACE IS LIMITED  
REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1**

**FREE  
HOTEL LODGING  
AVAILABLE!**

FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU  
217.333.3800

f t i in

**Reminder:** The State of Illinois Preliminary Exposure Reduction Project is still available to departments! If you haven't completed the training, think about doing it ASAP. This joint venture was developed to deliver critical firefighter health and life safety research, education, training and basic equipment to fire departments across the state. The intent of the project is to provide departments with free basic equipment that can be used for preliminary exposure reduction (gross decontamination or decon) of personnel on incident response scenes, as well as training on how to use those tools. The recommended decon equipment includes common household items that are easily obtainable and fit into a space the size of a standard 5-gallon bucket.

More information and links to the training videos can be found by visiting: [fsi.illinois.edu](https://fsi.illinois.edu)

**FREE DECON EQUIPMENT**  
IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENTS



**IFSI  
RESEARCH**



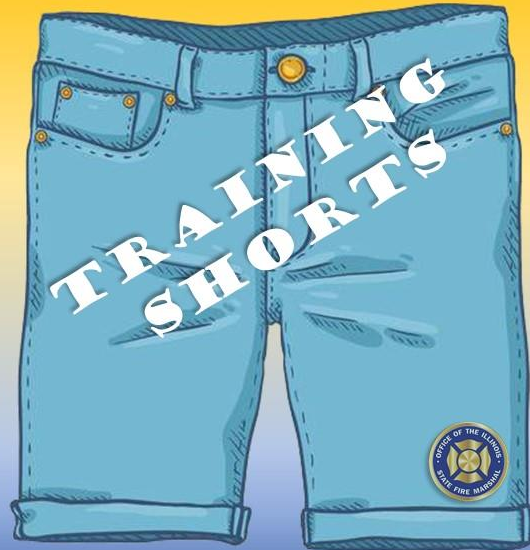
## STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT

VISIT [FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU](https://fsi.illinois.edu) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS





## PS&E Training Short Video



The OSFM Division of Personnel Standard and Education (PS&E) continue to produce tutorial videos to help you navigate and use their many services. This training short tutorial from PS&E walks you through the fdmail account. It's the main communications tool between the OSFM and fire departments in Illinois. Make sure you are checking this email to ensure you are receiving all proper communications.

The tutorial video can be found by visiting the PS&E portal on the OSFM website or by visiting the OSFM YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/Oy-DKqY5bws>.

PS&E have other tutorial videos covering Portal Roster Updates, Portal Calendar and Course Reference Materials. These videos can be found by visiting the media tab on the OSFM website: [sfm.illinois.gov](https://sfm.illinois.gov).

### Personnel Standards & Education Division

#### Training Videos



**PS&E Portal Roster Update Training**  
The Personnel Standards and Education (PS&E) Portal has received a face lift. A few changes have been made concerning how you update your department/district roster. Click here to learn about the changes so you can keep your roster current.



**PS&E Calendar Tutorial Video**  
The calendar on the PS&E Web Access Portal has many options and is a great way for you to plan ahead for classes or tests. This tutorial will walk you through how to best utilize this feature.



**Course Reference Material Training Short**  
In this PS&E Training Short, learn where to find reference materials on the web access portal.



**PS&E Training Short: FDMail**  
This PS&E training short tutorial walks you through the fdmail account. It's the main communications tool between the OSFM and fire departments in Illinois. Make sure you are checking this email to ensure you are receiving all proper communications.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

- Basic Forms
- Certification Exam Information
- Current List of Certifications
- Course Equivalency
- State Certification Advisory Committees
- Fire Department Search and Reports
- Current Exam Schedule & Info
- Training Reimbursement Claims
- Tutorial Videos**



## Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) Training Opportunity



**ALTERNATIVE  
FUEL VEHICLES**  
SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

**How little you know might SHOCK you.**

**FREE AFV emergency response training. Start today!**

Stranded high voltage in damaged batteries, nearly invisible hydrogen flames, and using water on certain gaseous fuel cylinders can have serious consequences. Alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) are a safety game changer for emergency responders. Twelve million AFV's are projected to be on U.S. roads in three years. Are you prepared to respond?

Get the tools and training to safely handle accidents involving electric, hybrid, fuel cell and gaseous fuel vehicles with our free self-paced online course. Visit NFPA's training site today at [evsafetytraining.org/training](https://evsafetytraining.org/training).



**ALTERNATIVE  
FUEL VEHICLES**  
SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

[evsafetytraining.org/training](https://evsafetytraining.org/training)  
1-800-244-3555



*It's projected that in the next three years there will be around twelve million Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) on US roadways. Fire Departments and Districts have continued to adapt to new vehicle technologies and designs over the years. It's important that firefighters and first responders understand the hidden dangers and other hazards that come along with responding and rescuing passengers from AFVs. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has produced documents and training related to AFVs. Visit [evsafetytraining.org/training](https://evsafetytraining.org/training) to learn more.*



**ALTERNATIVE  
FUEL VEHICLES**  
SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

### Emergency Responder Safety Training for Alternative Fuel Vehicles

NFPA's Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) Safety Training is designed to help first & second responders across the U.S. prepare for the growing number of hybrid/electric, fuel cell, and gaseous fuel trucks, buses, commercial fleets, and passenger vehicles. With over 15 million of these vehicles on the road today, it is essential that responders have a solid understanding of safety concepts associated with this new technology.



Today the program offers a wide array of training materials including instructor-led classroom training, self-paced online training utilizing highly-interactive learning modules which include videos, graphics, 3D animations, simulations, and data review exercises, educational video series, interactive 3D learning models, and quick reference materials.

Over the past seven years, the program has been supported by all the major North American fire service organizations (IAFF, IAFC, NVFC, IFMA, NASFM, the Metro Fire Chiefs, USFA, and NAFTD), twelve respected electric/hybrid/fuel cell vehicle fire and-rescue subject matter experts, the Fire Protection Research Foundation, the US Department of Energy, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pacific Northwest National Labs, Argonne National Laboratories, two major law enforcement associations (IACP and NSA), New York State Police, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the US Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the American National Standards Institute, and the Towing and Recovery Association of America. Thanks to these partnerships, the AFV Safety Training Program has reached more than 220,000 emergency responders to date.

### Training Offerings

	Fire Service	Fire Investigation	Crash Reconstruction	EMS	Tow & Salvage
Online Training	•			•	
Interactive 3D Models	•	•	•	•	
Classroom Training	•	•			
Educational Training Videos	•	•	•	•	•
Quick Reference Materials	•	•	•	•	•

For More Information on This Program or to Access These Products, Visit:

[AFVTechSafety.org](https://AFVTechSafety.org)



## Congratulations Manhattan Fire Protection District Iso 1 Rating



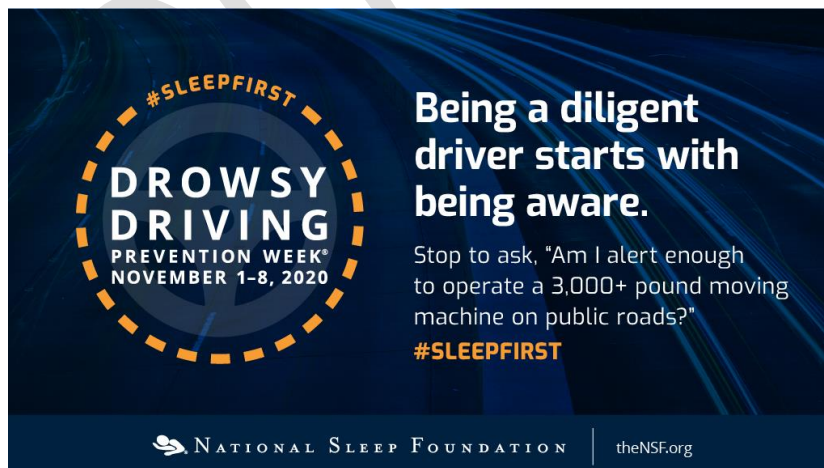
*The Office of the State Fire Marshal offers its congratulations to the Manhattan Fire Protection District (MFPD) for being awarded an ISO Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating! MFPD is one of 26 departments in Illinois with this classification and one of 293 departments out of over 46,000 departments nationwide.*

*“Through this evaluation, ISO has recognized MFPD’s efforts in reducing risk and loss in the community,” said MFPD Fire Chief Steve Malone. “The achievement of a Class 1 Public Protection Classification clearly demonstrates that the MFPD is continually seeking ways to raise the level of service, excellence and commitment the fire district has to the public safety of our citizens.”*

*The Insurance Services Office (ISO) provides statistical information on risk. ISO’s rating system evaluates communities in four primary categories:*

- Emergency communications systems, including facilities for the public to report fires, staffing, training, certification of telecommunications and facilities for dispatching fire departments.*
- The fire department, including equipment, staffing, training and geographical deployment of fire companies.*
- The water supply system, including the inspections and flow testing of hydrants and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires.*
- Community efforts to reduce the risk of fire, including fire prevention codes and enforcement, public fire safety education and fire investigation programs.*

## Drowsy Driving Prevention Week November 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>



*The National Sleep Foundation holds Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (DDPW) each year the week following the end of Daylight-Saving Time.*

*The goal of this annual campaign is to reduce the number of drivers who drive while sleep deprived. Drowsy driving is responsible for more than 6,400 U.S. deaths annually. Fall-asleep crashes are often caused by voluntarily not getting the sleep you need.*

*The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conservatively estimates that 100,000 police-reported crashes are the direct result of driver fatigue each year. This results in an estimated 1,550 deaths, 71,000 injuries, and \$12.5 billion in monetary losses. These figures may be the tip of the iceberg, since currently it is difficult to attribute crashes to sleepiness.*

*#SLEEPFIRST*



## National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week November 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

2020 National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week was November 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was: *Slow Down, Move Over, Be Safe.*

The goal of National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week is, for the fourth year, to reach out to every responder, and to every driver, and to every passenger, to make it clearer that every person has a role to play. This year over 3400 people will die and 390,000 will be injured because of distracted driving.

Put your phone down while driving, keep your eyes on the road, obey the speed limit and other traffic control devices, never drive impaired, and if you see first responders or tow truck operators on the side of the road, move over and slow down. Remember to Give Them Room, they are there to help you!

### STATE LAW

**MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN FOR STOPPED EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

## ROADWAY INCIDENT SAFETY is NO Accident

**POSITION** the fire apparatus for blocking to protect your crew from traffic

**WEAR** your high visibility vest or apparel

**IMPLEMENT** traffic control

**WORK** in the shadow of the blocking vehicle

**NEVER** turn your back to traffic

**MAINTAIN** situational awareness

## Fire



**RESPONDERSAFETY**  
Learning Network

For more information, visit: [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com) & [www.RSLN.org](http://www.RSLN.org)

## GIVE THEM DISTANCE



ROADWAY WORKERS



EVERYDAY DRIVERS



EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

#GiveThemDistance

**1 SLOW DOWN**

**2 CHANGE LANES SAFELY**



## Winter Weather Preparedness Week November 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

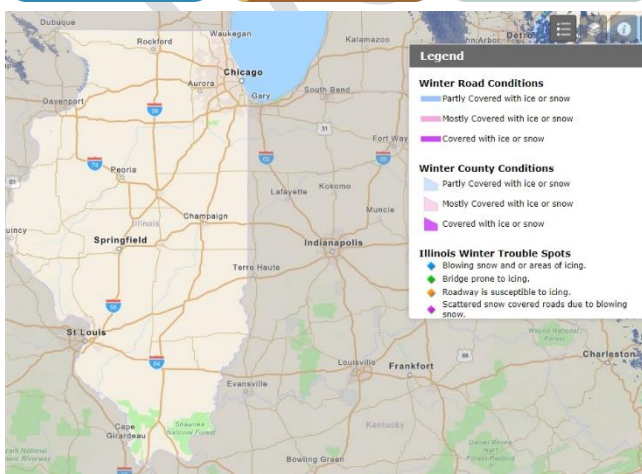
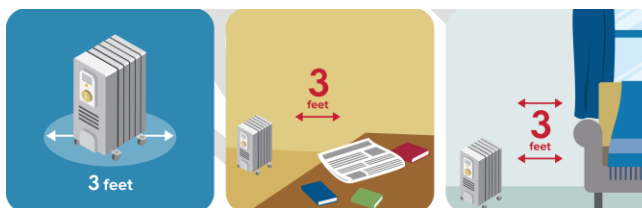
### Winter Preparedness Checklist

Home Winter Preparedness Checklist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Select Foods See Additional Checklist	<input type="checkbox"/> Warm Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights & Extra Batteries
<input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Dishware Plates, Bowls, Utensils	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Items Meds, Infant Formula, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches For Candles & Gas Fireplaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone Fully Charged
<input type="checkbox"/> Portable Radio AM/FM/Wx Radio & Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel/Snow Blower Check condition & maintain	<input type="checkbox"/> Firewood For Wood Fireplaces

Car Winterization Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Engine Fluid Levels Oil, Coolant, Washer Fluid, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect Tire Tread Replace if Near Wear Limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Test Battery Replace if Necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> Install Snow Tires if You Own a Set
<input type="checkbox"/> Use Deicing Washer Fluid Clean Windshield at Low Temps	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Headlights & Taillights
<input type="checkbox"/> Switch to Synthetic Oil Handles the Cold Better	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Add &amp; Inspect Winter Survival Kit</b>

Home Winter Survival Food Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruits and Vegetables Requires a Manual Can Opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Bread and Condiments Keep Bread Frozen to Last Longer
<input type="checkbox"/> Crackers, Nuts, Fruit Bars, Chips High Energy Foods	<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal and Toaster Pastries
<input type="checkbox"/> Soups Some Soups Require Water or Heating	<input type="checkbox"/> Meals Ready to Eat (MREs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cookies and Hard Candy	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water 1 gallon per person, per day (for at least 3 days)

Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/Sleeping Bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Perishable Food Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Kitty Litter Used for Traction
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shovel	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone & Charger
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/> Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects



Winter Weather Preparedness Week was November 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. This week is set aside every year as a reminder to residents of Illinois to prepare for the cold and snow that old man winter brings to the state. A study published in 2020 by the University of Illinois Chicago found that nearly 95-percent of temperature related deaths in Illinois were due to cold weather.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service worked together to produce a [Winter Weather Preparedness Guide](#). This guide has tips and tools families need to prepare for harsh winter weather.

Fire safety is another top priority during the winter months. Make sure all smoke alarms and CO detectors are working monthly. Have your heating equipment checked and serviced by a professional. If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it is outside, keep away from windows so that the exhaust from the generator can't leak into the home. Don't use a stove to heat your home and make sure space heaters have, well, space!

Before setting off on a road trip, make sure to check the forecast first! If snow or ice is forecast to impact the state, visit [gettingaroundillinois.com](http://gettingaroundillinois.com) for the latest road conditions from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Being prepared for the cold and snowy months will not only mean you will stay warm this winter but will also ensure that you are safe.



## Kudos/OSFM Retirements



Thank You Storage Tank Safety Specialist Craig Adams for 10.5 years of service to the OSFM! Enjoy Retirement!



Thank You Webmaster Paul Beatty for 7.5 years with the OSFM and 30 years of service to the State of Illinois! Enjoy Retirement!

*Dale Simpson*

*We can't all be experts on everything, but we all have the ability to find an expert. Thank you for being such a helpful expert.*

*Connie  
Village of East Galesburg*



**YOU ROCK**

## Kid's Corner

# Holiday

## HIDDEN PICS

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND: ☐ golf club, ☐ piece of pie, ☐ coffee cup,  
☐ oven mit, ☐ pencil, ☐ 2 smoke alarms, ☐ bowling pin, ☐ ice cream cone,  
☐ swimming fin, ☐ dog bone, ☐ boot, ☐ toast, ☐ strawberry, ☐ battery,  
☐ comb, ☐ flower, ☐ spoon, ☐ the number "2" and a ☐ hot dog!



THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.

CHECK OUT [SPARKY.ORG](http://SPARKY.ORG) FOR MORE FUN!



Kid's Corner

